



# MAURITANIA



## GOVERNMENT

### Chief of State

President Mohamed Cheikh El GHAZOUANI

### Head of Government

Prime Minister Mohamed Ould BILAL

### Government Type

presidential republic

### Capital

Nouakchott

### Legislature

unicameral Parliament or Barlamane consists of the National Assembly or Al Jamiya Al Wataniya (157 seats; 5-year terms)

### Judiciary

Supreme Court or Cour Supreme (subdivided into 7 chambers: 2 civil, 2 labor, 1 commercial, 1 administrative, and 1 criminal, each with a chamber president and 2 councilors); Constitutional Council (consists of 6 members)

### Ambassador to US

Ambassador Mohamedoun DADDAH

### US Ambassador

Ambassador Michael J. DODMAN

## GEOGRAPHY

### Area

Total: 1,030,700 sq km  
Land: 1,030,700 sq km  
Water: 0 sq km

### Climate

desert; constantly hot, dry, dusty

### Natural Resources

iron ore, gypsum, copper, phosphate, diamonds, gold, oil, fish

## ECONOMY

### Economic Overview

dominated by extractive industries (oil and mines), fisheries, livestock, agriculture, and services; recent GDP growth driven largely by foreign investment in the mining and oil sectors; half of population depends on farming, raising livestock

### GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)

\$17.28 billion (2017 est.)

### GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)

\$4,500 (2017 est.)

### Exports

\$1.72 billion (2017 est.)  
partners: China 31.2%, Switzerland 14.4%, Spain 10.1%, Germany 8.2%, Japan 8.1% (2017)

### Imports

\$2.09 billion (2017 est.)  
partners: Belgium 11.5%, UAE 11.3%, US 9.2%, China 7.5%, France 7.4%, Netherlands 6.1%, Morocco 6%, Slovenia 4.8%, Vanuatu 4.7%, Spain 4.7% (2017)

## PEOPLE & SOCIETY

### Population

4.0 million (July 2020 est.)

### Population Growth

2.09% (2020 est.)

### Ethnicity

black Moors (Haratines) 40%, white Moors (Beydane) 30%, sub-Saharan Mauritians (including Halpulaar, Fulani, Soninke, Wolof, Bambara ethnic groups) 30%

### Language

Arabic (official and national), Pular, Soninke, Wolof (all national languages), French

### Religion

Muslim (official) 100%

### Urbanization

urban population: 55.3% of total population (2020)  
rate of urbanization: 4.28% annual rate of change

### Literacy

53.5% (2017)

